

REMARKS

5 In the Office Action of March 2, 2005, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 9 and 17 – 20 under 35 U.S.C 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 5,821,760 B1 (Koeman et al.). Furthermore, claims 7, 8, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being obvious and unpatentable over Koeman in view of US Patent 6,636,048 A (Sciacero et al.).

10 In the same office action, the Examiner explicitly acknowledges the patentability of the subject matter of claims 2 – 6 and 10 – 14, if rewritten in independent form.

15 Accordingly, the features of claim 2 have been incorporated into the independent claim 1 and the features of claim 10 have been incorporated into the independent claims 8 and 9. In this regard, the applicant submits that currently amended claims 1, 8 and 9 and their respective dependent claims are now novel and non-obvious over the prior art.

Appl. No. 10/622,411
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Conclusion

In the light of the above-mentioned claim amendments, the applicant respectfully
5 requests for a timely issuance of the Notice of Allowance in this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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